

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims are amended for expeditious prosecution

This amendment is being filed in response to the office action dated October 30, 2007. In the current amendment, Applicants have amended at least the independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26 and amended the dependent claims 2, 12, 22. Applicants are not conceding in this Application that these and/or other amended/canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner and/or for reasons provided by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and/or cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims, including the original claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications

Claims are placed in a condition for allowance

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in page 8 of the Office Action the presence of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 18, 22, 24, 28.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26 with the requirements of dependent claims 4, 8, 14, 18, 24, 28 respectively, wherein dependent claims 4, 8, 14, 18, 24, 28 were indicated as having allowable subject matter. Dependent claims 4, 8, 14, 18, 24, 28 have been canceled.

Applicants have written dependent claims 2, 12, 22 in independent form including all of the requirements the base and intervening claims on which dependent claims 2, 12, 22 depended, wherein dependent claims 2, 12, 22 were indicated as having allowable subject matter.

For the above reasons the independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, 26 are patentable over the cited art, and in a condition for allowance. All other non-canceled claims depend directly or indirectly on the independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, 26 and are therefore in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable. Should any additional fees be required beyond those paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0449.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 557-2292 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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